


WOOD BUFFALO REGION

MAJOR MUNICIPALITIES	PAGE 1
DEMOGRAPHICS	PAGE 2
IMMIGRATION (PERMANENT RESIDENTS)	PAGE 3
NEWLY REGISTERED APPRENTICES	PAGE 4
LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS	PAGE 5
EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY	PAGE 6
INCOME	PAGE 7
INVESTMENT	PAGE 8
ESTABLISHMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES	PAGE 9
SMALL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS	PAGE 10
INVENTORY OF MAJOR PROJECTS	PAGE 11
DEFINITIONS	PAGE 12



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MAJOR MUNICIPALITIES

- The Major Municipality that gained the most population according to Statistics Canada census data from 2001 – 2006 (5 Years), in percentage, for the Wood Buffalo Region was the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo with an increase of 24.1% (9,997 residents).

Please note: Shadow populations are not counted in the census. The province of Alberta has recently experienced an influx of shadow population or seasonal workers due to the economic boom. This has been brought to the attention of Statistics Canada and any revisions will be released in the fall of 2008.

Economic Indicators: Wood Buffalo Region				
Major Municipalities	Status	2006 Population	2001 Population	1996 Population
Wood Buffalo, Regional Municipality of	Specialized Municipality	51,558	41,561	35,213
Wood Buffalo, Improvement District No. 24	Improvement District	422	369	370
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001, 2006				

Economic Indicators: Wood Buffalo Region				
Major Municipalities	2001 - 2006 (5 Years)		1996 - 2006 (10 Years)	
	% Change	Net Change	% Change	Net Change
Wood Buffalo, Regional Municipality of	24.1%	9,997	46.4%	16,345
Wood Buffalo, Improvement District No. 24	14.4%	53	14.1%	52
Source: Compilations by Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry				

All Data in Report is based on:

Dog Head 218
 Fort Mackay
 Gregoire Lake 176
 Gregoire Lake 176A
 Improvement District No. 24, Wood Buffalo
 Janvier 194
 Wood Buffalo, Regional Municipality

IMMIGRATION AND RESIDENTS

DEMOGRAPHICS

- According to Statistics Canada census data, the Wood Buffalo Region's population had a percentage increase of 23.6% from 2001 -2006 (5 years) which works out to an increase of 10,115 residents.
- According to Statistics Canada census data, in 2006, the Wood Buffalo Region's population accounted for 1.6% of the provinces' population.

Please note: Shadow populations are not counted in the census. The province of Alberta has recently experienced an influx of shadow population or seasonal workers due to the economic boom. This has been brought to the attention of Statistics Canada and any revisions will be released in the fall of 2008.

Economic Indicators: Wood Buffalo Region	
Land Area	Wood Buffalo
Square Kilometers	97,267.4
% of Provincial Total	14.4
Total Population	Wood Buffalo
Population (000s), 2006 Census	53,065
% of Provincial Total	1.6%
Population (000s), 2001 Census	42,950
% of Provincial Total	1.4%
Population (000s), 1996 Census	36,284
% of Provincial Total	1.3%
Population Growth (%), 2001 - 2006	23.6%
Population Growth (%), 1996 - 2006	46.2%
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001, 2006	

Economic Indicators: Wood Buffalo Region			
Population Components	2006	2001	1996
Age Group: 65+ (%)	2.0	2.1	1.9
Age Group: 0 - 14 (%)	20.4	23.2	26.9
Dependency Ratio ¹	28.8	33.8	40.4
Old Age Dependency Ratio ²	2.5	2.8	2.6
Males, Ages 0 - 14 (%)	19.6	22.5	26.6
Females, Ages 0 - 14 (%)	21.4	24.1	27.2
Males, Ages 15 - 64 (%)	78.7	75.6	71.8
Females, Ages 15 - 64 (%)	76.4	73.6	70.6
Males, Ages 65+ (%)	1.8	1.8	1.5
Females, Ages 65+ (%)	2.2	2.3	2.2
Source: Statistics Canada, Census 1996, 2001, 2006			

IMMIGRATION – PERMANENT RESIDENTS

- According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada, in 2006, 316 immigrants selected a location in the Wood Buffalo Region geography as their destination of choice on their permanent residence application form.

Please note: This figure does not include temporary foreign workers, students or temporary residents. Also, those that selected a certain province as their destination of choice on their permanent residence application are not required to move to the province indicated. This means that there could potentially be data missing due to immigrants indicating once province as their destination and then actually moving to another.

- The annualized percentage growth from 1996 to 2006 for the Wood Buffalo Region was 11.8%. The annualized percentage growth from 1996 to 2006 for Alberta was 4.0%. The percent change for the Wood Buffalo Region from 2001 -2006 (5 Years) was 271.8% (231) and the percent change from 1996 – 2006 (10 Years) was 203.8% (212).

Economic Indicators: Wood Buffalo Region	
Immigrants (Permanent Residents) ³	Wood Buffalo Region
As of December 31, 1996	104
% of Province	0.7%
As of December 31, 1997	71
% of Province	0.6%
As of December 31, 1998	54
% of Province	0.5%
As of December 31, 1999	52
% of Province	0.4%
As of December 31, 2000	57
% of Province	0.4%
As of December 31, 2001	85
% of Province	0.5%
As of December 31, 2002	67
% of Province	0.5%
As of December 31, 2003	131
% of Province	0.8%
As of December 31, 2004	130
% of Province	0.8%
As of December 31, 2005	246
% of Province	1.3%
As of December 31, 2006	316
% of Province	1.5%
Annualized Percentage Growth, 1996 - 2006, 10 years ⁴	11.8%
Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) Landing File, Compilations by Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry	

NEWLY REGISTERED APPRENTICES

- From December 31, 2001 to December 31, 2006, the number of newly registered apprentices for the Wood Buffalo Region increased by 40.9% (711 to 1,002).
- As of December 31, 2006, the Wood Buffalo Region accounted for 4.0% of all the newly registered apprentices in Alberta (1,002 of 24,914).
- The annualized percentage growth for the Wood Buffalo Region from December 31, 2001 to December 31, 2006 was 7.1%. The annualized percentage growth for the same period for the province was 12.2%.
- The top trades that new apprentices registered for, in 2006, in the Wood Buffalo Region are: Heavy Equipment Technician (162), Electrician (160), and Welder (147). The top trades that new apprentices registered for, in 2006, in Alberta are: Welder (4,423), Electrician (3,051) and Heavy Equipment Technician (2,191).

Please note: These figures are based on employer location and only account for first year apprentices. This is not the running total of all apprentices currently enrolled in all trade programs from year one up to their certificate. Several apprentice programs take several years to complete with both on-the-job and classroom training.

Economic Indicators: Wood Buffalo Region	
Newly Registered Apprentices - All Trades ⁵	Wood Buffalo
As of December 31, 2001	711
Region's % of Province New Registered Apprentices	5.1%
As of December 31, 2002	907
Region's % of Province New Registered Apprentices	7.0%
As of December 31, 2003	553
Region's % of Province New Registered Apprentices	4.7%
As of December 31, 2004	588
Region's % of Province New Registered Apprentices	4.6%
As of December 31, 2005	1,025
Region's % of Province New Registered Apprentices	5.7%
As of December 31, 2006	1,002
Region's % of Province New Registered Apprentices	4.0%
Annualized Percentage Growth, 2001 - 2006 ⁶	7.1%
Source: Alberta Advanced Education, Compilations by Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry	

LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS – LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

- In 2006, according to the Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, the Wood Buffalo Region employment rate for the working population of 15+ was 80.6% with a participation rate of 83.7%.
- In 2006, according to the Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, the Wood Buffalo Region employment rate for the age group 15 -24 years old was 69.0% with a participation rate of 73.6%.

Economic Indicators: Wood Buffalo Region						
Annual Labour Force Characteristics ⁷	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
Population: 15+ (000s)	38.6	38.8	36.6	40.6	34.1	37.4
Labour Force: 15+ (000s)	32.3	31.2	30.5	34.7	29.1	31.0
Employment: 15+ (000s)	31.1	30.1	29.3	32.9	28.0	29.5
Unemployment: 15+ (000s)	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.8	N/A	1.5
Participation Rate: 15+ (%)	83.7	80.4	83.3	85.5	85.3	82.9
Unemployment Rate: 15+ (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.2	N/A	4.8
Employment Rate: 15+ (%)	80.6	77.6	80.1	81.0	82.1	78.9
Participation Rate - Age Group: 15 - 24 (%)	73.6	72.4	75.3	77.5	76.7	74.4
Unemployment Rate - Age Group: 15 - 24 (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	66.0	N/A
Employment Rate - Age Group: 15 - 24 (%)	69.0	68.4	68.5	70.0	71.2	69.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey - Note: N/A=data suppressed, insufficient sample.

There is no population control for special geography and some regions have small sample size, the volatility of these estimates can lead to large year to year swings in the data so the drop or increase would come from sampling variability. Also beginning in 2005, Statistics Canada used the 2005 redesign, prior 2005 they used the 1995 redesign. Statistics Canada also used a blend of the old and new designs from November 2004 to March 2005. This was the phase in period and the two designs did overlap during that time. Statistics Canada urges the reader to notice that some regions increase in sample size. This could explain the jump in population 15.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY – LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

- In 2006, According to the Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, the service-producing sector in the Wood Buffalo Region employed roughly 53% of individual that answered this survey. .
- In 2006, According to the Statistics Canada Labour Force Survey, the Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil and Gas industry continued to have the strongest amount of individuals employed with approximately 9,200 jobs. This industry includes Oil and Gas extraction and Support Activities for Mining

Economic Indicators: Wood Buffalo Region						
Annual Employment by Industry ⁸	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001
All Industries (000s) - Total	31.1	30.1	29.3	32.9	28.0	29.5
Goods-Producing Sector	14.7	13.1	13.2	14.7	12.6	13.5
Agriculture	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Forestry, Fishing, Mining, Oil & Gas	9.2	7.7	8.2	8.3	8.0	7.8
Utilities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Construction	3.9	4.2	4.0	5.3	3.5	4.8
Manufacturing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Services-Producing Sector	16.4	17.0	16.1	18.3	15.4	16.0
Wholesale Trade	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Retail Trade	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.9
Transportation & Warehousing	1.5	2.0	2.2	2.0	N/A	N/A
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.5	1.5	N/A
Business, Building & Other Support Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Educational Services	1.8	1.5	1.8	1.7	N/A	2.5
Health Care & Social Assistance	N/A	1.7	N/A	1.5	N/A	N/A
Information, Culture & Recreation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Accommodation & Food Services	1.9	1.8	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.2
Other Services	N/A	1.7	N/A	1.6	N/A	1.5
Public Administration	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey Note: N/A= data suppressed, insufficient sample size.						

There is no population control for special geography and some regions have small sample size, the volatility of these estimates can lead to large year to year swings in the data so the drop or increase would come from sampling variability. Also beginning in 2005, Statistics Canada used the 2005 redesign, prior 2005 they used the 1995 redesign. Statistics Canada also used a blend of the old and new designs from November 2004 to March 2005. This was the phase in period and the two designs did overlap during that time. Statistics Canada urges the reader to notice that some regions increase in sample size. This could explain the jump in population 15+.

INCOME, TAXFILER

- In 2005, the average individual income for all taxfilers for the Wood Buffalo Region XXX.
- In 2005, XXXXX of all taxfilers for the Wood Buffalo Region reported individual gross income of \$100,000 and over with the average claim over \$100,000 being XXXX.

“COUPLE” INCOME

- In 2005, the average “couple income” for all taxfilers for the Wood Buffalo Region was XXX.
- In 2005, XXXXX of all taxfilers for the Wood Buffalo Region that declared themselves a “couple”, defined as married or common law, reported a combined gross income of \$100,000 and over.

INVESTMENT

- In 2006, the total building permit value for the Wood Buffalo Region increased by 46.9% (roughly \$296.4 million) from 2005.
- In 2006, the residential building permit value for the Wood Buffalo Region increased by 49.7% (roughly \$94.6 million) from 2005.
- In 2006, the number of single family housing starts in the Wood Buffalo Region decreased by 2.7% (-14 units) from 2005.
- In 2006, the number of total housing starts in the Wood Buffalo Region increased by 58.9% (696 units) from 2005. This increase is mostly contributed to apartment starts in the area.
- Between the years 2001 and 2006, there has been 3,270 single family housing starts in the Wood Buffalo Region. During the same time the total housing starts was 7,299.

Economic Indicators: Wood Buffalo Region			
Building Permit Values and Housing Starts (2006)	2006	2005	2004
Total Building Permit Value (\$000s)	927,759	631,393	241,853
% of Provincial Total	6.7%	6.2	3.3
Per Capita Building Permit Value (\$) ¹⁰	17,446	8,460	3,539
Average Annual Total Building Permit Value (\$000s), 2001 - 2006	391,854		
Average Annual Total Building Permit Value (\$000s), 1996 - 2006	250,989		
Commercial Building Permit Value (\$000s)	227,036	219,193	55,060
% of Total Building Permit Value	24.5%	34.7%	22.8%
% of Provincial Commercial Building Permit Value	6.2%	9.2%	3.6%
Industrial Building Permit Value (\$000s)	359,199	209,810	31,549
% of Total Building Permit Value	38.8%	33.2%	13.0%
% of Provincial Industrial Building Permit Value	34.2%	24.4%	7.4%
Institutional Building Permit Value (\$000s)	54,750	12,196	4,710
% of Total Building Permit Value	5.9%	1.9%	1.9%
% of Provincial Institutional Building Permit Value	5.3%	1.4%	1.0%
Residential Building Permit Value (\$000s)	284,774	190,194	150,534
% of Total Building Permit Value	30.8%	30.1%	62.2%
% of Provincial Residential Building Permit Value	3.5%	3.1%	3.1%
Single Family Housing Starts	504	518	594
Average Annual Single Family Housing Starts (2001 - 2006)	545		
Average Annual Single Family Housing Starts (1996 - 2006)	430		
Total Housing Starts	1,878	1,182	1,033
Average Annual Total Housing Starts (2001 - 2006)	1,217		
Average Annual Total Housing Starts (1996 - 2006)	853		
Source: Statistics Canada, Compilations by Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry			

ESTABLISHMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES

- In 2006, 79.6% of all business establishments with employees in the Wood Buffalo Region were classified in the Services-Producing Sector which includes such industries as Retail Trade, Accommodation and Good Services, and Public Administration.
- From 2005 - 2006, the net percentage change in establishments with employees for all industries in the Wood Buffalo Region was 4.1% (60 net establishments). From 2001 – 2006, the net percentage change in establishments with employees for all industries in the Wood Buffalo Region was 16.9% (222 net establishments).
- From 2005 – 2006, the goods-producing sector in the Wood Buffalo Region saw a net increase of 4.0% (12 net establishments). From 2005 – 2006, the service-producing sector in the South Central Region saw a net increase of 4.1% (48 net establishments).

Economic Indicators: Wood Buffalo Region					
Establishment with Employees ¹¹	2006	2005	2001	% Change 2005 - 2006	% Change 2001 - 2006
All Industries (Total)	1,536	1,476	1,314	4.1%	16.9%
Goods-Producing Sector	314	302	253	4.0%	24.1%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Utilities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Construction	252	236	187	6.8%	34.8%
Manufacturing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Services-Producing Sector	1,222	1,174	1,061	4.1%	15.2%
Wholesale Trade	76	72	65	5.6%	16.9%
Retail Trade	195	193	182	1.0%	7.1%
Transportation & Warehousing	98	85	85	15.3%	15.3%
Information, Culture & Recreation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing	129	115	91	12.2%	41.8%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	177	171	113	3.5%	56.6%
Business, Building & Other Support Services	99	100	84	-1.0%	17.9%
Educational Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Health Care & Social Assistance	89	93	99	-4.3%	-10.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	112	109	105	2.8%	6.7%
Other Services	182	174	178	4.6%	2.2%
Public Administration	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Source: 2006 Alberta Business Monitor, Alberta Finance Note: N/A - Insufficient sample size, data suppressed. Compilations by Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry					

SMALL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS WITH EMPLOYEES – 1 – 49 EMPLOYEES

- In 2006, 87.7% of all business establishments in the Wood Buffalo Region were classified as small businesses (Business that have 1 – 49 employees).
- From 2005 - 2006, the net percentage change in small business establishments for all industries in the Wood Buffalo Region was 1.5% (20 net establishments). From 2001 – 2006, the net percentage change in establishments with employees for all industries in the Wood Buffalo Region was 11.6% (140 net establishments).

Economic Indicators: Wood Buffalo Region					
Small Business Establishments ¹² (1 - 49 employees)	2006	2005	2001	% Change 2005 - 2006	% Change 2001 - 2006
All Industries (Total)	1,347	1,327	1,207	1.5%	11.6%
Goods-Producing Sector	253	253	214	0.0%	18.2%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mining and Oil and Gas Extraction	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Utilities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Construction	208	199	162	4.5%	28.4%
Manufacturing	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Services-Producing Sector	1,094	1,074	993	1.9%	10.2%
Wholesale Trade	68	69	61	-1.4%	11.5%
Retail Trade	172	173	170	-0.6%	1.2%
Transportation & Warehousing	90	79	81	13.9%	11.1%
Information, Culture & Recreation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Leasing	113	102	84	10.8%	34.5%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	170	164	111	3.7%	53.2%
Business, Building & Other Support Services	83	89	78	-6.7%	6.4%
Educational Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Health Care & Social Assistance	87	90	96	-3.3%	-9.4%
Accommodation & Food Services	85	90	86	-5.6%	-1.2%
Other Services	172	165	176	4.2%	-2.3%
Public Administration	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Source: 2006 Alberta Business Monitor, Alberta Finance Note: N/A - Insufficient sample size, data suppressed. Compilations by Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry					

INVENTORY OF MAJOR PROJECTS

- As of June 30, 2007, there were 78 projects in all industries for the Wood Buffalo Region that were proposed, planned, under construction or completed.
- As of June 30, 2007, the total value for these 78 projects in all industries for the Wood Buffalo Region that were proposed, planned, under construction or completed was \$66.4 billion.

Please note: 2007 and 2006 can not be compared because some projects are carried over several years and there is only one cost available for the entire project

Economic Indicators: Wood Buffalo Region				
Major Construction Projects, As of June 30 ¹³				
Industry Sector	Projects		Value (\$millions)	
	2007	2006	2007	2006
Infrastructure	10	10	\$1,430.6	\$334.2
Institutional	6	4	\$221.9	\$154.4
Mining	2	2	\$85.6	\$163.0
Oilsands	37	32	\$63,170.0	\$53,752.0
Other Industrial	1	2	\$100.0	\$106.5
Pipelines	6	5	\$931.8	\$466.0
Residential	15	3	\$321.2	\$119.5
Tourism/Recreation	1	3	\$147.0	\$135.5
TOTAL	78	61	\$ 66,408.1	\$ 55,231.1
Source: Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry, Inventory of Major Alberta Projects				

1. This inventory lists projects in Alberta, valued at \$5 million or greater, that have recently been completed, are currently under construction, or are proposed to start construction within two years. Not all projects over this threshold are listed due to reasons of confidentiality and/or due to information not being available at time of printing.
2. Project data is obtained from public information sources. Although, where possible, this data has been verified with the project proponent / developer, users of the Inventory may wish to confirm project data with the proponent / developer.
3. The inventory does not breakdown project expenditures by any given year. The cost of the project is the value of expenditures expected over all phases of project construction, which may span over two or more years.
4. The cost of projects listed in the Inventory are estimated values only.

Economic Indicator Definitions

1 Dependency Ratio – As of May 2006, the percentage of the population below the age of 15 (Child) and over the age of 64 (Elderly) divided by the number of adults (15 – 64). This is the population of children and elderly that are dependent on the adult population for economic needs.

2 Old Age Dependency Ratio – As of May 2006, the percentage of the population over the age of 64 (Elderly) divided by the number of adults (15 – 64). This is the population that is dependent on the adult population for economic needs.

3 Permanent Immigrants - Citizenship and Immigration Canada's (CIC) count of where immigrants are landing within the province of Alberta. This includes spouses, dependents, entrepreneurs, investors, self employed, refugees and family sponsorship. This does not take into account those that land in other Canadian provinces and then move to Alberta.

4 Annualized Percentage Growth, 1996 - 2006, 10 Years (%) - The average annual increase in immigrants over the 10 year period.

5 Newly Registered Apprentices - All Trades - The number of apprentices that are newly enrolled in a designated trade program. The apprentices must be enrolled by their original employer by December 31 of the year. Regional data is based on original employer location.

6 Annualized Percentage Growth, 2001 – 2006, 5 Years (%) - The average annual increase in newly registered apprentices for the 5 year period.

7 Annual Labour Force Characteristics - Drawn from Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey (LFS). The LFS is the source of current, monthly, and annual estimates of total employment (including self-employment) and unemployment. Allocating existing LFS respondents to Economic Indicator Regions results in insufficient data for certain regions (i.e. Insufficient sample sizes).

LABOUR FORCE: Persons who are 15 years or over that were not institutional residents that were either employed or unemployed for the year. Labour Force = Employed + Unemployed.

PARTICIPATION RATE: Number of persons from the Labour force expressed as a percentage of the population aged 15 years and over. Participation Rate = (Labour Force / Population 15 years and over)*100.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: Number of unemployed persons expressed as a percentage of the labour force. Unemployment Rate = (Unemployed / Labour Force)*100.

EMPLOYMENT RATE: Number of employed persons expressed as a percentage of the population 15 years of age and over. Employment Rate = (Employed / Population 15 years and over)*100.

8 Annual Employment by Industry - Based on the Labour Force Survey data. Industry and occupation codes are assigned using the respondent's job description on the questionnaire. Codes assigned are based on the classifications described in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS 2002).

9 Income (2005) – Individual Income (2005) - Gross income for individuals filing income tax in Alberta in 2005. **Couple Income (2005)** – Gross income for people that defined themselves as married or common law when filing the income tax in Alberta in 2005.

10 Per Capita Building Permit Value (\$) - Total value of building permits for a region divided by its population.

11 Annual Establishments with Employees – Business establishments are presented by the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) industry codes. Commercial industries are included as are several in the public sector (schools, universities, hospitals, government offices, churches, service clubs, etc.)

12 Small Business Establishments - Business establishment with less than 49 employees and at least one employee. This does not include individuals that are self-employed.

13 Major Projects – As of June 2007, a list of major development projects in Alberta that are valued at \$5 million or more that are planned, currently under construction or recently completed. Project data is obtained from public information sources. Updated information is added monthly, print edition is updated quarterly.

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